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He was also the first to attempt a systematic treatment of mineralogy, in which field his only predecessors were Theophrastus, Dioscorides and Albertus Magnus. His work *De Re Metallica* remained the standard for nearly two centuries.

Translations of the *De Re Metallica* have been published in Germany and Italy, but this is the first rendering in English. The book, however, is far from being a mere translation. Every page gives evidence of great industry in research, for there are copious footnotes, for all of which Mr. Hoover is responsible, and which, containing as they do a great mass of valuable information, will probably be considered by some the most important material to be found in the book. There are careful appendices on Agricola's works, on weights and measures, and on the ancient authors consulted, while an excellent index, covering eighteen pages, shows how readily the book may be used for reference purposes.

Most of the work is more or less technical, and the success of the translation is largely due to the fact that Mr. Hoover is an expert on the subject. Thus the German translation, though prepared by a university professor,

is a wretched work, by one who knew nothing of the science, and who more especially had no appreciation of the peculiar Latin terms coined by Agricola, most of which he rendered literally. It is a sad commentary on his countrymen that no correct German translation exists.

The part that will be of most interest to the layman is Book I, which deals with certain questions of a general interest. Thus the author upholds the dignity

of the mining profession, and points out with how many arts and sciences a miner should be acquainted. An unusually large number of passages from the Classics are cited in praise or blame of the precious metals, the writer's object being to prove that the miner's calling "excels in honor and dignity that of the merchant trading for lucre, while it is not less noble, though far more profitable, than agriculture".

In this remarkable Book or chapter, as we should rather call it, there are citations from, or references to, at least thirty Greek and Latin writers. This is the only part of the work in which the reviewer has had an opportunity to compare the translation with the original, but, judging from it, we may claim that the work is uncommonly well done, the rendering being all the more creditable because of the serious difficulties which the translators had to encounter. The Latinity of Agricola is comparatively smooth and pure, but in the handling of so technical a subject it was inevitable that the descriptions given should "often take the form of House-that-Jack-built sentences", and that much of the terminology should be specially coined, so that no mere Latinist could hope to grapple successfully with the task which Mr. and Mrs. Hoover have so ably performed.

We may add that the work is an *édition de luxe*. It is a superb piece of book-making, being bound in parchment, and reproducing the fine original in the size and character of the page. The old wood-cuts are also taken over from the Latin work, and must prove extremely interesting to all readers, especially to those who have any knowledge of mining methods.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,
California.

H. RUSHTON FAIRCLOUGH.

THE SPARROW

The sparrow has no holiday gear,
Nor whistles a jolly stave;
But in romance no buccaneer
Has ever been so brave.

He scorns your threats and stays to scoff,
He challenges and usurps.
Does blustering winter scare him off?
He tilts his head and chirps.

He meets the North's artilleries
As cool as Bonaparte;
No hungry siege of frost can freeze
The courage in his heart.

While refugees take gentle cheer
In land of palm and spice,
He drudges in the trenches here
With wings encased in ice.

Then, when Spring starts her northern drive,
And Winter's long line reels,
The foppish refugees arrive
Fresh from the far Antilles.

PRO PASSERE

Non est versicolor passeribus toga,
nec de pectoribus dulce fluit melos:
non pirata tamen,—fabula quem notat,
forti passere fortior.

Ridens nil metuit verba minacia,
audax provocat et fortiter occupat.
Quid? Pellunt hiemis verbera Passerem?
extollit caput—et canit!

Tormentis Boreae protinus obicit
immotos animos, ut Bonapartius:
ieiuno glacies non poterit gelu
cor constringere passeris.

Condimenta petunt dum volucres vagae
palmarumque nemus sub Iove torrido,
in fossis subeunt ardua passeris.
alas dum glacies tegit.

Mox ut, signa ferens in Boreae plagas,
trusit Ver gelidam militiam loco,
cantatrix volucrum turba sibi placens
ex oris redit Indicis.

The Oriole, that gay young spark:
The thrush, swift, robin, wren,
The martin, and the meadow-lark
Come back to us again.

And fawning honors we must do
Unto this dandy rout.
This debonair, soft-fluting crew
Must drive the sparrow out!

The gable-angle, come what will,
Must serve the martin's rest,
The elm-crutch near the window-sill¹
Must hold the robin's nest.

The drooping maple-bough must sway²
For Oriole's silken ease.
Wo to the sparrow that says nay
To our sublime decrees!

I do not like the sparrow's dress.
It is as dull as dirt;
I do not like his quarrelsomeness;
He's impudent and pert.

But as for me, he's free to hold
What's his by gallant fight.
No silver song or coat of gold
Shall blind me to his right.

Campion College, JAMES J. DALY, S.J.
Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin.

Fulgens Oriolus¹, ludere cui placet,
chaeturae, merulae, troglodytae simul
cum turdis volant: mox et hirundines
sturnellaeque petunt domos.

Sane nunc opus est cedere protinus
blandis alitibus prima sedilia:
audet turba canens haec volucrum rapax
nidis pellere passeret!

Per fas atque nefas angulus eminens
tectorum celeres condit hirundines;
ulmus prae domibus provida ramulis
implumes merulas tegit.

Festinant aceris³ pendula brachia
nidos oriolis pandere sericos.
At, vae passeribus, si libeat sacris
his obsistere legibus!

Vestis passeris, heu! quam mihi displicet!
telluri niger est tam similis color!
pectus nec placuit litigiosus,
audax nec petulantia!

Securus teneat—pace tamen mea—
quidquid Marte potens arripuit! Mihi
nullum dulce melos nec chlamys aurea
tollent debita passerum!

ANTONIUS FRANCISCUS GEYSER. S.J.
E Seminario S. Stanislai,
Florissant, Missouri.

"FROZEN FEET FROM TIGHT LACINGS AND STRAPS"

In a paragraph of a recent number of the Boston Transcript under the above caption it is stated that

In the French Army during November, at the end of a rainy season, there came many soldiers to the hospital with a diagnosis of frozen feet. The similarity of the wounds was apparent to Dr. Temoin, who investigated the matter and has reached the conclusion that it is tight lacing that is at the bottom of the trouble and not the frost. He notes before the French Academy of Medicine that arrested circulation is responsible for the injuries. The excessive wet weather, in shrinking the straps of gaiters, the gaiters themselves and other fabrics that form ligatures, incapacitated the men. . . .

It was noticed by this authority that all of the men injured were from the first line of trenches, none whatever from the second and third, the latter having opportunity to take better care of themselves and to remove their clothing.

The student of Xenophon's Anabasis is at once reminded of the passage, 4. 5. 12-14, where Xenophon says,

Some of the soldiers lost their toes by mortification because of the cold. . . . One could protect himself against this by keeping constantly in motion and by taking off his shoes at night. The thongs cut into the feet of those who slept with their shoes on and the shoes froze fast. This was the case, because, after their old shoes gave out, they had made themselves brogues of newly-skinned oxen.

Manifestly it was the shrinking of the lacings of untanned leather which caused the trouble.

WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON
COLLEGE.

HAMILTON FORD ALLEN.

MORE WAR NOTES

The Philadelphia Public Ledger of March 19 displayed pictures of French grenade throwers. One man was having his armor put on him by a friend; the other man was in the attitude of throwing the grenade. Their bodies were protected by steel breast-plates; their heads were encased in close-fitting caps, probably of metal, rather reminiscent of some of the simpler forms of ancient headgear; on their left arms they bore shields of rectangular shape, closely resembling the *scutum* of the Romans. Even the titles given to the pictures were reminders of the Classics: "Donning his armor: a twentieth century Hector preparing for battle in the Meuse valley", and "As though he were under the walls of old Troy: this French grenade thrower wears breastplate of steel and carries a shield".

The other item is a news despatch from Athens, dated March 18:

During the mine-sweeping practice by Greek naval vessels in the Bay of Eleusis this week obstacles were encountered which are thought to be Persian galleys of Xerxes's fleet, sunk 2400 years ago.

Efforts will be made after the war to investigate these sunken obstacles further.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ROLAND G. KENT.

¹NOTE. oriole: Oriolus (gabula); thrush: Turdus (cyanea); swift: Chaetura (pelagica); robin: Merula (migratoria); wren: Troglodytes (aedon); martin: Hirundo (urbica); meadow-lark: Sturnella (magna). elm: ulmus (Americana). ²maple: acer (rubrum).